Contingency plan to tackle drought

350. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan to tackle the devastating drought, witnessed in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far, to help the States affected by drought;

(d) whether Government thought of any permanent policy to tackle recurring drought year after year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) Droughts are location specific phenomena requiring local level contingency plans. Most States have such plans to deal with the situation.

MSP for paddy and other crops

351. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab and other State Governments had demanded early announcement of Minimum Support Price for paddy and other crops and other concessions for farmers in drought hit States;

(b) if so, the demands made by different State Governments; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.